*Piravom Hospital.*

178. *MR. K. M. PAUL: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether they are aware of the fact that there is no adequate supply of medicine to the Piravom Hospital to cope with the demand made by the public for the same; and

(b) whether any action has been taken in this matter to alleviate public distress?

DR. S. JOHN: (a) No. The supply of medicines to the Piravom Dispensary is adequate

(b) In view of the answer to part (a), this does not arise.

*Venereal diseases.*

179. *MR. S. MUTHUKARUPPA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether they are aware that syphilis is widely prevalent in the State;

(b) are they aware that syphilis being a very infectious disease and also being transmittable to the issues it is very likely that in due course the health of the nation as a whole will markedly deteriorate unless efficient treatment is meted out to the victims;

(c) are they aware that on account of the cost and length of the treatment and ignorance about the seriousness of the disease most of the victims do not take any or take only partial treatment: and

(d) whether they would consider the desirability of starting venereal diseases clinics in different parts of the State attached to the existing hospitals or otherwise for the free and efficient treatment of the poor victims and doing vigorous propaganda to remove the ignorance about the disease and to teach the ways and means to avoid infection and to induce the erring people to lead a wholesome life?

DR. S. JOHN: (a) Prevalent, but not widely.

(b) Yes.

(c) Government are not aware of this.

(d) All the Government allopathic medical institutions are supplied with the necessary medicines for the treatment of venereal diseases and those who resort to the institutions are rendered the necessary medical aid.

As for the propaganda the Health Education Staff of the Public Health Department is doing their best in the matter.

*Travancore Civil Service Examination.*

180. *MR. D. THOMAS (*Kalkulam cum Vilavancode*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) when was the system of conducting the Travancore Civil Service Examination introduced for recruitment to the higher division of the public service;

(b) the number of examinations conducted ever since and the total number of candidates that have passed;

(c) the total number of Latin Catholics that have competed for the Travancore Civil Service Examinations; and

(d) the number of Latin Catholics that have come out successful?

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MR. S. N. URE (*Public Service Commissioner.*) : (*a*) The first Travancore Civil Service Examination was held in 1114.

(*b*) 3. There is no question of pass or failure in the Travancore Civil Service Examination. The required number of candidates is selected each time. The total number of candidates selected in all the three examinations is 11.

(*c*) 3.

(*d*) None.

MR. D. THOMAS : May I know whether a certain number of marks are allowed to candidates of the backward community in the T. C. S. examination and whether any special consideration is shown for them?

MR. S. N. URE : In the T. C. S. examination no marks for backwardness are allowed. Government have the right to nominate 1/3 of the number of candidates to be chosen from the unrepresented and backward communities from those who has secured sufficient marks for the purpose of selection in the examination.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU : May I know for how many vacancies the T. C. S. examination was held recently?

MR. S. N. URE : For six vacancies.

MR. A P. UDAYABHANU : May I know how many candidates were taken?

MR. S. N. URE : Two.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU : Is it not a fact that three candidates were declared to have passed and notified accordingly?

MR. S. N. URE : I think so.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU : Is there any passing in the Travancore Civil Service examination out of which candidates will be selected?

MR. S. N. URE : It is a selection examination and candidates are simply chosen.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU : Is it not a fact that 3 persons were selected and out of that one was declared medically unfit?

MR. S. N. URE : I think that is the right position.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU : Then, may I know why was not the fourth candidate by virtue of rank selected for the third place?

MR. S. N. URE : As far as I remember there was no fourth candidate who had secured 35 per cent marks in the *viva voce* examination which alone would qualify for selection.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : It is stated in the answer that there is no question of pass or failure in the examination and that the required number of candidates is selected each time. May I know the basis on which the required number of candidates is selected each time?

MR. S. N. URE : Government tell us the number of candidates that may be required.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : Then, may I know the basis on which that required number of candidates is selected?

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**PRESIDENT**: Government will find out the likely number of vacancies that may arise in the superior grade. The idea is that the Civil Service Examination would be held whenever a certain number of people is required to fill up the superior service. Every year about two to four vacancies may be notified for the purpose

**MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI**: What is the purpose of having those examinations?

**MR. S. N. URE**: It is well-known that if the best candidates is to be chosen, examination alone would serve the purpose.

**MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI**: May I know whether that result is not determined by the results of the examination?

**MR. S. N. URE**: It is.

**MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI**: What is the criterion then for determining the best candidate?

**MR. S. N. URE**: Examination is the only criterion.

**MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI**: In the answer it is given that there is no question of pass or failure in the Travancore Civil Service Examination. Therefore I would like to know what is the criterion for determining the best candidate.

**PRESIDENT**: The T. C. S. examination is conducted for selecting a certain number of best candidates for filling up the superior grade of service. Certain subjects and papers are set to all candidates and those who come to the top are chosen. After being chosen they are also being examined *viva voce* in order to know whether apart from book reading or cramming they are able to answer questions on public affairs and whether they have kept their eyes and ears open. For instance, whether the hydro electric scheme exists in Travancore and if so where it is was once put to a candidate who appeared for the *viva voce*. He said that it is in South Travancore and definitely said that it is not in North Travancore. The Dewan is presiding over the *viva voce* examination and during the last two occasions it may be true to say that the general attainments of the candidates were not satisfactory. It was found that people who had done very well in written examinations were practically unable to answer even normal questions in an intelligible form. Those people got very low marks in the *viva voce* examination though they had secured very high marks in the written examination. The result is that they were not selected. It may be that the *viva voce* examiners are somewhat prejudiced or made mistakes. Whatever may be said about it the fact is that those who fared well in the written examinations fared badly in the *viva voce* examination and the sum total of marks obtained was something below the minimum. The first three or four candidates alone got the requisite minimum of marks and consequently they were selected. Care was taken to see that even though persons who belonged to backward communities or economically unprogressive communities had come up to the average for the T. C. S. examination they were given consideration for the purpose of other appointments. Generally that was the principle which had been applied so far.

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